

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01782 040952Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 JUSE-00 L-03 PRS-01 PA-01 /030 W

-----040956Z 019016 /10

P 040727Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2456

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1782

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS US

SUBJ: APPEAL IN CASE OF KIM SANG-GUN

REF: A. STATE 298595 DEC 76, B. STATE 311789 DEC 76.

1. ON MARCH 3, EMBASSY RECIVED PERSONAL VISIT FROM KIN SAM-DONG ELDERLY MOTHER OF KIM SANG-GUN, AND ANOTHER RELATIVE. THEY LEFT A PETITION HANDWRITTEN BY MRS. KIM, EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: RESPECTED AMBASSADOR: I AM THANKFUL TO YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR, WHO ARE WOKING SO HARD FOR THE UNITED STATES AND OUR COUNTRY. I AM SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU WITH A FAMILY PROBLEM WHEN YOU ARE SO BUSY. I AM THE MOTHER OF KIM SANG-GUN, WHO WORKED AT THE KOREAN EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES AS A COUNSELOR UNTIL HE STOPPED WRITING. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT HE, WHO HAD LONG WORKED ABROAD AND WHO IS MY OLDEST SON, AND WHO USED TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME FREQUENTLY BY TELEPHONE AND LETTER, HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE NOBEMBER. AFTER THAT, ONE DAY AN EMPLOYEE FROM THE COMPANY (SIC) WHERE MY SON WORKS VISITED ME AND TOLD ME THAT HE COULD NOT MEET (MY SON), NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIED. NEVERTHELESS, I WAITED, DAY BY DAY, WITH OPEN EYES, UNABLE TO SLEEP. AT THE THOUGHT THAT I, WHO AM OLD AND NEARLY 70, MAY BREATHE MY LAST IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO SEE MY SON, IT SEEMS THAT THE HEAVENS ARE CAVING IN (ON ME). IS IT TRUE
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THAT MY SON HAS NOT RETURNED FROM AMERICA BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WANT TO RETURN TO HIS MOTHER? OR IS SOMEONE KEEPING MY SON IN AMERICA; I WISH I KNEW. IT IS STRANGE INDEED THAT I CANNOT LEARN FROM MY SON WHERE HE IS IN AMERICA, WHICH IS NOT A BAD COUNTRY, BUT A GOOD (ONE).

I AM APPEALING TO YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR, TO FIND MY SON, BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE HIM AND MEET HIM, AND I WOULD LIKE TO

HEAR FROM HIM AS TO HOW HE IS (GETTING ALONG). I UNDERSTAND THAT AMERICA IS A LARGE COUNTRY AND A COUNTRY FULL OF UNDERSTANDING.THEY SAY THAT, WHEN OUR EMBASSY REQUESTED OF THE AMERICANS AN INTERVIEW WITH MY SON, THEY COULD NOT MEET HIM; WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHY IS IT THAT IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH THEY CALL THE NATION MOST FRIENDLY AND CLOSEST TO OUR COUNTRY, THEY DON'T TELL US NEWS OF A PERSON SINCERELY? AREN'T THEY ALLOWING THE PERSONS IN OUR EMBASSY TO MEET (HIM)? MR. AMBASSADOR, I WOULD BE TRULY GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS AND LISTEN TO MY (PLEA). PLEASE RETURN MY SON TO ME. IF THAT IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU, PLEASE TELL ME WHERE HE IS, AND ARRANGE FOR ME TO HEAR OF HIM. TRULY, I APPEAL TO YOU WITH MY TEARS. IN ANY EVENT, I WISH BLESSINGS FOR YOUR FAMILY AND HEALTH FOR YOU. MARCH , 1977. KIM SAM-DONG, MOTHER OF KIM SANG-GUN. END TEXT

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES ABOVE TEXT SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO KIM SANG-GUN. WE ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON DISPOSITION OF CASE WE SHOULD HAVE FOR FORMULATION OF REPLY. OUR PRESENT INTENT WOULD BE TO REPLY SIMPLY ALONG LINES PRESS GUIDANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED. WE WOULD OF COURSE BE HAPPY IN ADDITION TO TRANSMIT ANY MESSAGE MR. KIM MYA HAVE FOR HIS MOTHER.

4. INCIDENTLY, THIS IS FIRST EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF THIS CASE SINCE DECEMBER. STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, DEFECTION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770074-1302
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770390/aaaadaxt.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: d1ca12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 298595, 77 STATE 311789
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3200013
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPEAL IN CASE OF KIM SANG-GUN
TAGS: PFOR, KS, US, (KIM SANG-DONG), (KIM SANG-GUN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1ca12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009